

The Director of Central Intelligence  
Washington, D.C. 20505

13 September 1984

National Intelligence Council

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Central Intelligence

FROM: Herbert E. Meyer, Vice Chairman  
National Intelligence Council

SUBJECT: Possible Presidential Initiative at the UN

1. I am writing this to give you a head's-up on an idea the Secretary of Defense may suggest at your Friday Oval Office meeting to discuss the upcoming session of the UN General Assembly.

2. For several weeks now, Fred Ikle has been developing the concept of an "open world" initiative during a series of lunches and dinners with people including myself, Larry Silberman and Tony Dolan. The concept remains vague, but Fred's ambition is to score a major propaganda victory over the Soviets. In essence, such a US initiative would advance the proposal that there is too much secrecy in the world today, that excessive secrecy serves no state's true security interests, and that we--as a community of states sharing some very common and deadly perils--can act to begin to remove needless misunderstanding. This initiative would be in the grand tradition of similar initiatives proposed by Woodrow Wilson, Bernard Baruch, and Dwight Eisenhower. Among the possible products of such an initiative would be exchanges of military five-year plans, crisis communication centers, data exchanges on armed forces, agreements on advance notice of military maneuvers, and "rules of the road" for all space activity.

3. Fred has asked Collin Gray to draft some thoughts on this, and one idea that has emerged would be for a presidential address to the UN at which the open world initiative would be launched, possibly with a call for all nations to participate. Again, Fred's point is to score a propaganda coup. He is under no illusion that the Soviets would seriously entertain such an idea, and therefore emphasizes that there is no danger whatever of the US winding up in situation where we would actually need to surrender secrets.

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4. In just the last couple of days, Fred's idea has moved from the dinner table to something the President might use prior to the election. It is possible that Secretary Weinberger will raise this open world initiative, and I just wanted you to be aware of it.



Herbert E. Meyer

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